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INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Welcoming New Members of Congress

Also: LC to Display Gettysburg Address

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JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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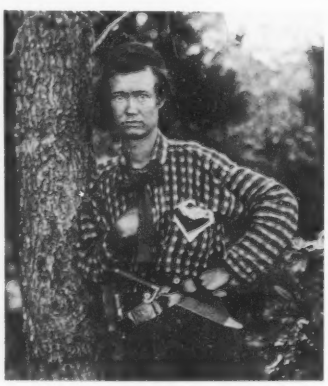

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On the Cover: Vice President Albert Gore welcomes freshman Rep. John Baldacci (D-Maine) to Washington during a Dec. 6 reception for new House members in the Jefferson Building's Great Hall. *Photo by Jim Higgins*

Cover Story: The new members of the House in the 104th Congress were invited to their library recently, where they were shown some of the Library's treasures and the institution's digital initiatives. 466

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"Lincoln at Gettysburg," painting by Fletcher Ransom. *From Prints and Photographs Division*

Library to Display Gettysburg Address:

Joins with National Archives in Lincolniana Display

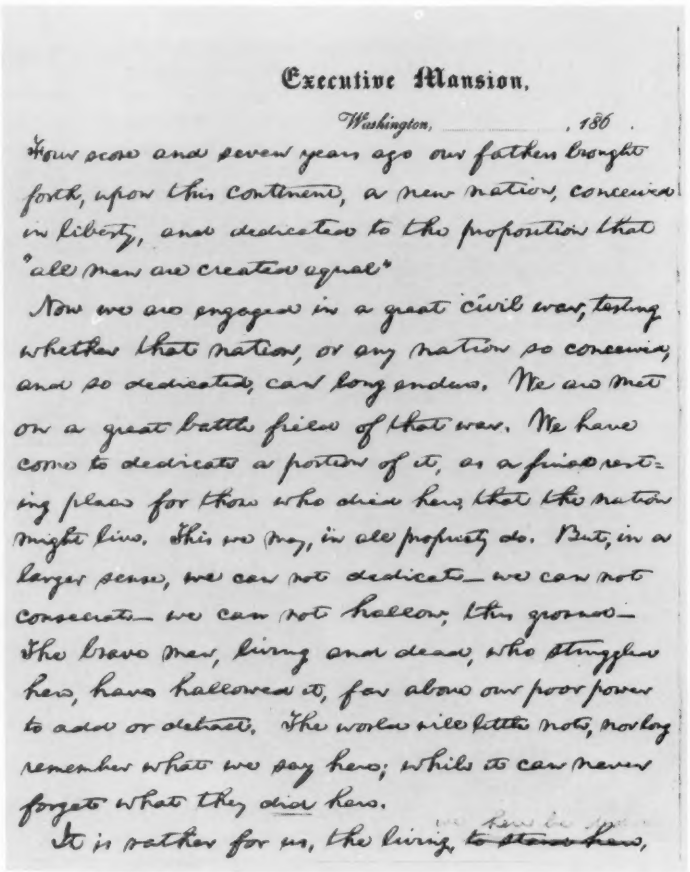
For the first time since 1973, the Library of Congress will display one of its two original copies of the Gettysburg Address.

Known as the Nicolay copy, one of the first drafts, the two-page document will be on view in Madison Memorial Hall, Madison Building, 101 Independence Avenue S.E. The original will be on view for three days only: Jan. 13, 14 and 16, Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday holiday, and will be replaced with a high-quality facsimile on Jan. 17 through 19. Due to the original document's fragility, the Library's conservators have determined that it can be displayed safely for a maximum of only three days every other year.

Complementing the display, entitled "The Gettysburg Address: Words That Shaped America," will be related materials from the Library's incomparable collection of Lincolniana:

☐ A four-page letter from David Wills, the principal organizer of the Gettysburg National Memorial Cemetery, dated Nov. 2, 1863, inviting President Lincoln to Gettysburg on Nov. 19 to "formally set apart these grounds to their sacred use by a few appropriate remarks." Edward Everett, the principal orator, had been invited to the ceremonies on Sept. 23.

☐ A personal note from David Wills inviting the president to spend



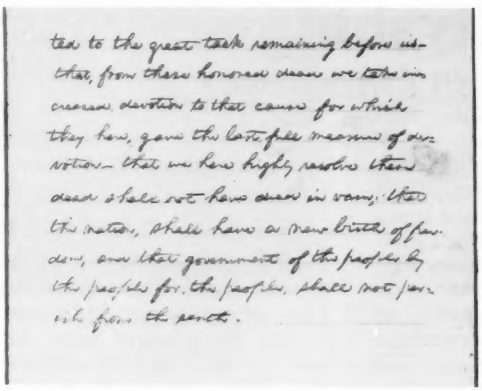
Executive Mansion,

Washington, _____, 186 .

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that "all men are created equal"

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of it, as a final resting place for those who died here, that the nation might live. This we may, in all propriety do. But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate — we can not consecrate — we can not hallow this ground — The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have hallowed it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here; while it can never forget what they did here.

It is rather for us, the living, we here be ~~to stand here~~,



tea to the great task remaining before us — that, from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here, gave the last full measure of devotion — that we here highly resolve these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

The Nicolay copy of the Gettysburg Address, the so-called first draft, is one of two original copies of the address in the Library's collections. There are many differences between the two copies, and debate continues as to Lincoln's delivery text. *From LC Manuscript Division, Presidential Papers Collections*

the night at his house "as the Hotels in our town will be crowded and in confusion. . . ."

Also on display will be the only known photograph, from the collections of the National Archives, of Lincoln at the Gettysburg dedication on Nov. 19, 1863.

Hours for the exhibition are: 8:30 a.m.–9:30 p.m. except on Saturday, Jan. 14, and Monday, Jan. 16, when the Madison Hall will be open until 6 p.m. Madison Hall only will be open on Jan. 16 in commemoration of Martin Luther King's birthday.

The exhibition will be available online over the Internet on the Library's World Wide Web server (Uniform Resource Locator: http://lcweb.loc.gov/homepage/lchp.html).

The Library of Congress and the National Archives are joining in the simultaneous display of two milestone documents of the Civil War era. The original of the Emancipation Proclamation, signed by Abraham Lincoln on Jan. 1, 1863, will also be exhibited Jan. 12–19, in the National Archives Rotunda, Constitution Avenue between Seventh and Ninth streets N.W. Hours are 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

In announcing this collaborative effort, the Librarian of Congress, James H. Billington, called it "a signal opportunity for the American public to view two original and irreplaceable icons of our nation's history." Both institutions will sponsor public programs relating to this unique joint display.

On Friday, Jan. 13, Dr. Eric Foner, DeWitt Clinton Professor of History at Columbia University, will speak at the Library on "1863: America's 'New Birth of Freedom.'" His lecture begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Mumford Room on the sixth floor of the Madison Building.

Actor Jim Getty, reenacting President Abraham Lincoln, will read the Gettysburg Address and answer questions about it, the Emancipation Proclamation and the Civil War from

noon to 2 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 16, in Madison Hall.

For further details on this and other public programs, call the Library of Congress at (202) 707–8000 and the National Archives at (202) 501–5000.

Little Known Facts About the Gettysburg Address

On Nov. 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln spoke briefly at the dedication of a national cemetery. More than 100 years later, his 272 words—known as the Gettysburg Address—are cherished for their poignant brevity and eloquence.

The Gettysburg Address has long been the source of myths and misconceptions. Principal among these is that the address was hastily scribbled on the back of an envelope as Lincoln rode to Gettysburg by train. The surviving drafts, two of which are in the custody of the Library of Congress, argue against this. So does the historical record of Lincoln's practice of careful preparation and desire for polished texts. Although scholars still are divided about which is the delivery text, due to disparities among the surviving written drafts and the contemporaneous accounts of the delivered speech, it is generally agreed that Lincoln took great care in preparing this address.

Garry Wills, author of *Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words That Remade America*, believes "it is improbable that the delivery text still exists."

However, of the five surviving copies, the two drafts that were given to the Library of Congress are most closely tied to the event. President Lincoln gave these drafts to his two secretaries, John Nicolay and John Hay. Following Nicolay's death in 1901, his copy passed to the Hay family. In 1916 the descendants of John Hay donated both these drafts to the Library. The other surviving drafts, the so-called Everett, Bancroft and Bliss copies, were made for charitable purposes well after the address was delivered. These copies are now held by the Illinois State Historical Library, the Cornell University Library and the White House, respectively.

The draft that the Library will display in January is the so-called first draft, which was given to John Nicolay. The first page is written in ink on Executive Mansion stationery, the second page, in pencil on foolscap. There are many variations in capitalization, punctuation and wording between the first and second drafts. It is these drafts that are still consulted by researchers of the period as interest in the Gettysburg Address continues.

There is some conjecture that Lincoln's rather belated invitation to speak at the dedication in Gettysburg was only a courtesy and that David Wills did not anticipate that the President would accept; these are also misconceptions.

The enclosure sent with the formal invitation, both of which are part of this display, contains a personal offer of hospitality from Wills to the president. Lincoln's decision to accept the invitation reflects his desire to address the divided nation at a critical juncture of the Civil War. His thinking on the purpose of the war had shifted dramatically since he entered the White House, and he seems to have been anxious to redefine the struggle in the popular mind.

Before the Emancipation Proclamation was issued on Jan. 1, 1863, the war had been fought largely to preserve the union of states; afterward, it was primarily a war against slavery. Although it applied only to states that had seceded from the Union, leaving slavery untouched in the loyal border states, the proclamation did announce the acceptance of blacks into the Union Army and Navy. By the war's end, nearly 200,000 African Americans had fought for the Union and freedom.

Library of Congress Memberships Available: *Includes Subscription to* Civilization *Magazine*

Associate membership in the Library of Congress, which includes a year's subscription to *Civilization: The Magazine of the Library of Congress*, is available for annual dues of $20 (see LC *Information Bulletin*, May 2, 1994).

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Carl Fleischhauer of the American Memory project (far right) gives Vice President Gore (front left) a demonstration of some of the Library's digital initiatives as (background, from left) John Kluge, David Packard, Frederick Prince, an unidentified guest, Diana Prince and another guest observe. *Photo by Jim Higgins*

A Night to Remember:

Gore Recalls His Days in Congress as LC Welcomes New Members

by Guy Lamolinara

"Hi, Jim. I'm sorry to be late," Vice President Albert Gore Jr. told the Librarian as he walked in from the carriage entrance to the Jefferson Building the night of Dec. 6.

"Thank you for making it [the Library's digital initiatives] possible. You guys are great," he said to Dr. Billington; John Kluge, president of Metromedia; and David Packard, chairman emeritus of Hewlett-Packard Co., as he balanced himself on his cane. But his injured Achilles' tendon (incurred while playing basketball) didn't prevent him from coming to a dinner to welcome new members of the House of Representatives and to see a demonstration of the Library's contributions to the Information Superhighway, one of his chief interests.

Also on hand to greet Mr. Gore were Mrs. Marjorie Billington; Melvin Laird, former defense secretary; and Maria Kuttner, Mr. Kluge's guest.

Vice President Gore and the others were whisked into the waiting elevator and up to the mezzanine of the Great Hall. There, Dr. Billington greeted the more than 50 current and soon-to-become members of the House, other guests and Library staff assembled near a podium.

"Thank you for coming tonight, in the middle of such a busy time . . . to get a taste of how the Library created and sustained by Congress serves Congress and the nation," the Librarian said.

Introducing the vice president, Dr. Billington noted that "he has led the administration's efforts to exploit the potential for America of electronic information delivery through the creation of the National Information Infrastructure."

"Finally, I get to meet you," Mr. Gore said. "Well, we've been through a tough campaign. We've said a lot of unflattering things about each other—some of which we meant.

"But tonight we have a chance to celebrate what we have in common: representing the people who sent us here to play a role in the oldest democracy in the world."

He then offered words of wisdom based on his own experiences in Congress as a senator from Tennessee: You play a role in history. . . . You also enter a world of tradition—some of which will perplex and annoy you," he said. "There are those who will never understand in the midst of the angriest debate [why] we have to refer to opponents as 'my distinguished colleague from New York' or 'my friend from the other side of the aisle.' But, of course, these are the traditions that ensure civility when we need it most."

Mr. Gore also noted that "we argue between our colleagues and [also] between the House and the Senate." He spoke of Norris Cotton of New Hampshire, a Senate Republican in 1954–74, who had once said about a spending bill: "If the Senate passed the Ten Commandments, the House would cut it down to Eight." The audience got the joke but several of the newly elected members nodded as they laughed, as if to acknowledge that they too would encounter similar rivalries.

"Of course, while we are adversaries often, there is much that we do as partners. And what could symbolize that more appropriately than this Library? In a little while I get to see a demonstration of this Library's digital library.

"The funding for it wasn't partisan. In fact it was boosted by major gifts from the private sector—from John Kluge and David Packard. . . . The Library of Congress doesn't work for Democrats or Republicans. It works for Americans," he said before beginning his praise of the work that LC does:

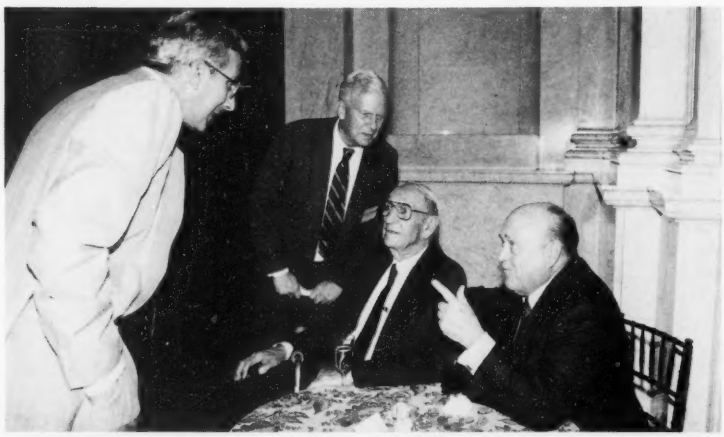
"As a freshman member of Congress [in 1977] I wandered over here [to the Library] and established a relationship with the Congressional Research Service and other components of the Library, and I found that it tremendously magnified my ability to serve my constituents and make the changes that I thought needed to be made.

"There is no training for this job," he added, "but there is information, and you'll find it here."

Warning the new members not to forget the people whom they represent, Mr. Gore recounted how "in my state of Tennessee, we don't forget the time a Democratic congressman said he 'wouldn't come home to shake hands with the clodhoppers.' Well, clodhopper clubs sprang up all over his district," and he was defeated in the next election. "It is a lesson worth remembering."

Another point he made was that long hours and missed children's birthday parties and anniversaries would likely become the norm in their lives. But "you will be grateful for this chance" to serve the nation.

Geraldine Otremba, director of the Library's Congressional Relations Office, escorted the vice president up to the Great Hall. *Photo by Jim Higgins*



Carl Fleischhauer and Ricky Erway then gave Mr. Gore a brief demonstration of some of LC's Internet initiatives. The vice president stayed afterward to meet as many of the guests as possible before having to leave.

During the dinner, made possible by the Prince Charitable Trust, Dr. Billington acknowledged his cohosts: Rep. Charlie Rose (D-Calif.), chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library (who was unable to attend), and Rep. Bill Thomas (Calif.), ranking Republican on the House Administration Committee.

He backed up Mr. Gore's statement that Congress can get the information needed to do its job at the Library: "The Congressional Research Service will be briefing your staff on the workings of this system. . . . The Library of Congress serves Congress, and, increasingly, the people—your constituents—of the whole nation, particularly through the new electronics."

When David Packard got up to speak, he took that notion a step further: "We are on the verge of a whole new revolution."

Daniel Mulhollan, director of the Congressional Research Service, noted that "it is critical that you have a source of unbiased information. We serve as an extension of your staff. We provide cost-effective and efficient delivery of the information you require. Welcome to Capitol Hill."

Alan Jabbour (top, from left), director of the Library's American Folklife Center, and Dr. Billington take a moment to chat with David Packard and Melvin Laird; Vice President Gore greets freshman Del. Victor Frazer (Independent-Virgin Islands) and Chief of Staff Wayne Chinnery; Deputy Librarian of Congress Hiram Davis (bottom, center) views some of the Library's treasures on display during the evening, as did other guests. *Photos by Jim Higgins and Yusef El-Amin*

Gay McDougall witnessed the end of an era as Nelson Mandela cast his ballot April 27. Ms. McDougall was the only American on the South African Independent Electoral Commission (IEC). *Photo by AP/Wide World Photos*

The Good and the Bad:

Human Rights Activist Discusses South Africa's Transition

"The good news is that, against all odds, the first nonracial elections in South African history were a success. The bad news is that South Africa needs far more than just a transition from an apartheid state to a nonapartheid one."

So said Gay J. McDougall at the Library Dec. 1.

The executive director of the International Human Rights Law Group, based in Washington, Ms. McDougall witnessed the formal end of South Africa's apartheid government during four days of elections held April 26–29. She was the only American on the South African Independent Electoral Commission, and she was right in the heart of things. The May 9 issue of *U.S. News & World Report* showed a photograph of presidential candidate Nelson Mandela casting his ballot as Ms. McDougall stood by his side and watched.

Eighty persons gathered in the Mumford Room to hear Ms. McDougall, a longtime activist in South Africa's struggle for democracy, talk about prospects for the country's future. "It's good to see a roomful of people still interested in South Africa and its future," she said.

Ms. McDougall was introduced by Dr. Billington, who took a moment to recount Mandela's Oct. 4 visit to the Library. "The election of President Mandela and the end of apartheid in South Africa are some of the most remarkable developments of our time," he said.

Also welcoming those in the audience was Beverly Gray, chief of the African and Middle Eastern Division, who said that Ms. McDougall's talk, "South Africa's Transition to Democracy: The Unfinished Work," was the first in a new series of lectures sponsored by her division.

Ms. McDougall reviewed the history of modern South Africa, noting that the former government violated fundamental principles of

international law and was despised by nations around the world. The new government, she said, enjoys respect in South Africa and is held up as a model among nations, largely as a result of the substantially free and fair elections held in April.

Observers predicted violence would disrupt the elections, and indeed, three-fourths of South Africans polled before the election thought a civil war would follow, Ms. McDougall said.

In the weeks leading up to the elections, a low-intensity civil war was being fought in the new province of KwaZulu/Natal with a body count of 15 to 18 per day. This was the only province in the country where terrorism threatened to disrupt the scheduled elections, the speaker said.

White right-wing extremists bombed power lines and offices of the African National Congress, Mr. Mandela's party, before the elections. Last-minute negotiations, by Mr. Mandela and others, with Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi and his Inkatha Freedom Party, resulted in the Inkatha party being added to the ballot. These negotiations pulled the country back from disaster by including all the major actors in the election, Ms. McDougall said. The days before and week of the elections were free of violence.

Because of the climate of intimidation and chronic violence, Ms. McDougall and other members of the Electoral Commission expected only a 40 percent voter turnout in KwaZulu/Natal. However, long lines were reported at all stations, and 80 percent of the province's voters turned out. The country as a whole had an 87 percent turnout. "It felt almost like magic," she said.

Three and one-half years of multiparty negotiations preceded the elections. "A lot of political capital was spent to get everyone in the process. Even the proportional representation system was established because it would include more small parties within the body," Ms. McDougall said.

The Government of National Unity was set up to allow all political parties with 5 percent or more of the vote to have proportional representation in the National Assembly and the Cabinet. South Africans "are busy creating new political institutions. It is a government made up primarily of first-time office holders," she said.

One of the challenges facing the new National Assembly is the drafting of a new constitution. Ms. McDougall said she was in Cape Town in November and sat in on a session of the assembly, where she witnessed a surprising spirit of cooperation. "People who were archenemies only a couple of months ago are now referring to one another as 'honorable member' and working together building a constitutional court, judicial services division and human rights division."

People who were archenemies only a couple of months ago are now referring to one another as 'honorable member' and working together building a constitutional court, judicial services division and human rights division."

—Gay McDougall, International Human Rights Law Group

Stability and security were the two fundamental issues under the old regime. The new South African government has realized that the security forces must be deemed legitimate and, finally, under civilian control. Accordingly, Mr. Mandela's government has taken steps to rehabilitate, retrain, reeducate and gain the loyalty of the security forces.

The most enduring image that Ms. McDougall remembered from the South African inauguration was seeing Mr. Mandela, "who was enemy No. 1," escorted by seven of the top generals. Air Force planes roared over the tens of thousands gathered, and cheers went up. "It was quite a spectacle to see them cheering the Air Force, which up to a few days ago had been the sound of the enemy—and with good cause," she said.

In the past, economic policies were framed to exclude blacks. "It will be a tenuous peace until those who were locked out are able to participate fully in the economy," she said. "Social reconstruction is the real test of this transition."

The Mandela government has compromised so far and made economic growth a condition before a change in living standards for black South Africans can occur. However, the new administration has proposed a comprehensive Reconstruction and Development Plan that calls for: building 1 million houses, providing free medical care to pregnant women and children under age 6, providing school meals, providing electricity for 100,000 houses in the townships, restoring and improving water and sanitation systems and offering educational programs to South Africans of all ages.

In addition, the new government wants to give restitution to those whose land was seized under apartheid. An estimated 3.5 million black South Africans were evicted from their homes and land.

Ms. McDougall acknowledged that this is an ambitious program for a fledgling government, but she called attention to South Africa's strengths, which include a large, talented population of committed people who have determination from years of struggle.

"The future is bright. . . . South Africans have plenty of problems, but they also have plenty of strengths."

—*Edward Ohnemus*

Edward Ohnemus is assistant editor of the Library's staff newspaper, The Gazette.

When Johnny Didn't Come Marching Home:

Civil War Poetry Evening Held at the Library

The background music included strains of "When Johnnie Comes Marching Home." But a rapt Library audience on Nov. 10, during an evening of readings of Civil War poetry, was given a glimpse into the lives of those who did not come home.

Putting the readings in context was Richard Marius, editor of *The Columbia Book of Civil War Poetry* (Columbia University Press, $24.95; available in LC Sales Shop and nationwide). "A certain grim sense of irony ruled spirits tuned to poetry" who described "sudden and violent death in the midst of the bucolic American land," he said.

"It was our nation's strangest war, and the wonder of it endures and draws generation after generation unto itself," Dr. Marius added.

The grim irony was present in many selections, including the first, "Ball's Bluff, A Reverie," by Herman Melville. In the poem, Melville is looking out of his window at marching soldiers, in whom "life throbbed so strong,/ How should they dream that Death . . . Would come to thin their shining throng?"

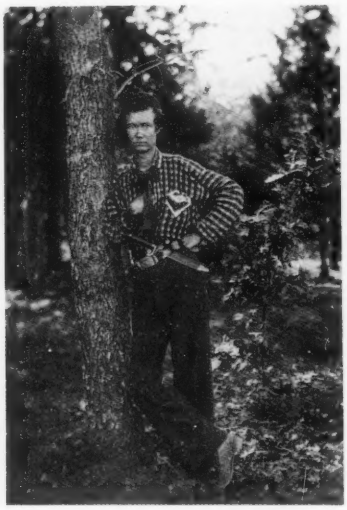
Later, he says:

"(Ah War! thy theft);/Some marching feet/Found pause at last by cliffs Potomac cleft;/Wakeful I mused, while in the street/Far footfalls died away till none were left."

The poem refers to an October 1861 massacre of Union soldiers in Virginia that was a harbinger to the country of how unchivalric the war would be. In a counterattack, the

Dead Confederate soldier in the trenches, Petersburg, Va., April 3, 1865. *All photos from* The Columbia Book of Civil War Poetry

Poet Laureate Rita Dove described the evening as a celebration of "poetry that has rallied around a certain event, poems contemporary as well as those from the era, and yet, even though more than 100 years separates them, they all meet in this emotional center that feels very, very real."



Pvt. Emory Eugene King, 4th Michigan Infantry; ruins of Galligo Mills, Richmond, Va., April 1865

Confederates had forced Union troops down a 100-foot bluff into the Potomac River, where they "picked them off like gleeful boys shooting frogs in a pond," Dr. Marius said.

Moving on to another poet, Dr. Marius said that few captured the noise of war better than Walt Whitman. Reading a selection by Whitman was Faith Stern, a retired art examiner from the Copyright Office.

The poem, "Come Up from the Fields Father," is about a letter, with news of an injured son, to a farming family in Ohio. The first half is a sing-song description of the bounty of the fields, "where apples ripe in the orchards hang and grapes on the trellis'd vines."

The second half starts with the family getting the letter, written by someone else and signed by the wounded son. But the tone of the poem is now halting and ominous in its finality. "While they stand at home at the door he is dead already,/The only son is dead."

Fred Kiley, director of publications at National Defense University in Washington, read "Gettysburg, July 1, 1863," Jane Kenyon's haunting account of the death of a young soldier.

"Someone near him groaned./But it was his own voice he heard./His fingers and feet tingled,/the roof of his mouth,/and the bridge of his nose . . .

"He became dry, dry, and thought/of Christ, who said, *I thirst.*/His man-smell—the smell of his hair/and skin, his sweat,/ . . . left him, and a sharp, almost sweet/smell began to rise from his open mouth/in the warm shade of the oaks./A streak of sun climbed the rough/trunk of a tree, but he did not/see it with his open eye."

Lorree Slye, a young former servicewoman who served stateside during the recent Gulf War, read a poem about Abraham Lincoln by Langston Hughes.

"Hughes was a modernist poet with a sharp eye for irony. He knew that blacks suffered all over America at the hands of whites who would profess undying love for Lincoln and his principles," she said before reading the poem "Lincoln Monument: Washington."

"Let's go see Old Abe/Sitting in the marble and the moonlight,/Sitting lonely in the marble and the moonlight,/Quiet for ten thousand centuries, old Abe./Quiet for a million, million years.

"Quiet—

"And yet a voice forever/Against the/Timeless walls/Of time—/Old Abe."

The event, coming as it did on the eve of Veterans Day, provided a fitting experience for the audience, transporting them to another, more harrowing time.

—*Yvonne French*

An Alternative Way to Acquire New Books

Every day thousands of books flow into the Library of Congress. They come by the truckloads from exchange partners, from approval plan vendors, from copyright deposits and from publishers participating in the Cataloging-in-Publication program. Incoming receipts include subjects from architecture to zoology, covering all modern languages and a multitude of formats.

A small percentage of the books present new or alternative ideas, often challenging commonly accepted notions. The Library may reject a new title in the area of clinical medicine, for example, because the National Library of Medicine is responsible for collecting in that subject area or because a book is a reprint of an edition already in the collections. But books are not rejected because of the ideas they contain.

The Collections Policy Office (CPO) recently completed a three-part study that confirmed that the Library is acquiring a wide spectrum of alternative press titles. There is no standard definition of an "alternative" publication. The terms "small," "independent" and "alternative" are often used interchangeably. Patricia Glass Schuman, former president of the American Library Association, describes alternative press titles as works that provide alternatives to the more traditional publishing and information networks. These publications often deal with experimental forms of literature and with ideas and concepts that are outside mainstream thought.

In the first part of the study, CPO compared the Library's holdings with titles listed in various catalogs published by Small Press Distribution, a Berkeley, Calif., book jobber specializing in literary small presses. Specifically, Small Press's lists of Native American, Chicano and Chicana, African American and Asian American writers were searched. It was discovered that the Library had a high percentage of these titles. For example, LC had 90 percent of the Chicano-Chicana authors. Titles not held were acquired, either through Copyright demand or by purchase.

William Poole (left) and William Schenck of Collections Services discuss the acquisition of alternative titles. *Photo by Yusef El-Amin*

Two members of the Library's intern class, Kathy Woodrell and Anne Blankenbaker, searched various publishers' catalogs, including several featuring gay and lesbian writers and themes. Again, LC's holdings were very strong.

CPO also searched *APT for Libraries: Alternative Press Titles for the General Reader.* This annual publication from Crises Press in Gainesville, Fla., lists monographs and periodicals that present alternative viewpoints on contemporary social and political issues. Although the Library held most of the titles, there were some gaps, and appropriate titles were recommended for acquisition.

The third section of the review involved working with Sanford Berman of Hennepin County Public Library. Mr. Berman has been active for many years as a proponent of making alternative press books more accessible to general readers. He and the Library cooperated on a six-month experiment in which Mr. Berman sent to CPO lists of "alternative" press titles for which he did not find any LC cataloging copy. The assumption was that this would be a way to identify titles LC had not acquired. Mr. Berman enthusiastically cooperated, sending, in addition to the lists of titles without LC cataloging copy, catalogs and other publications relating to alternative press titles. He used a broad definition of alternative publications, including books on hobbies, self-help and travel published by small publishers.

During the experiment, Mr. Berman identified and sent information about 166 titles. In over half the cases, LC had acquired the item, usually through copyright deposit, but had not cataloged it by the time Mr. Berman looked for cataloging copy. The book selectors at the Library believed that 16 percent of the items were beyond the scope of LC's collections.

This left 44 titles that LC did not own. After careful review, only seven titles were judged important

(Cont. on p. 475)

News from the Center for the Book:

'What Books Live?' Symposium Honors Daniel Boorstin

Daniel and Ruth Boorstin and Leonore and Walter Annenberg at the Sept. 30 symposium. *Photos by Yusef El-Amin*

The Library and the Center for the Book honored Librarian of Congress Emeritus Daniel J. Boorstin on Sept. 30, marking his 80th birthday with a symposium and dinner in the Jefferson Building's Great Hall.

Dr. Boorstin was recognized for his outstanding contributions as Librarian of Congress, historian and a citizen of the world of books who established the Center for the Book in 1977. More than 70 friends of Daniel and Ruth Boorstin joined in the celebration.

The day's highlights included an afternoon symposium on "What Books Live?"; tributes to Dr. Boorstin by Dr. Billington, historian R.W.B. Lewis and publisher Simon Michael Bessie; and the announcement of a major gift to the Library in Dr. Boorstin's honor.

Dr. Billington announced that in 1996 the Annenberg Foundation will make a $1 million contribution to the Library of Congress Trust Fund to establish an endowment for the Center for the Book (see LC *Information Bulletin,* April 4, 1994). The fund will be named for the Boorstins. The generosity of Ambassador Annenberg, who attended the reception and dinner, was acknowledged several times during the evening.

In discussing his predecessor, Dr. Billington focused on Dr. Boorstin's key role in raising public awareness of the Library; in the restoration and renovation of the Jefferson and Adams buildings; in the creation of the Council of Scholars and the Center for the Book; and, especially, in defending the Library against budget cuts.

In their remarks, Dr. Lewis and Mr. Bessie concentrated on Dr. Boorstin's career as a successful historian and writer, citing his incisive perspectives on American and world history as expressed through his many books. It also was noted that Dr. Boorstin's speeches and writings about books, reading and libraries are available in *The Republic of Letters,* published in 1989 by the Library of Congress.

Robert Loomis, Dr. Boorstin's editor at Random House, announced that the publisher is planning a volume of Daniel Boorstin's writings in its Modern Library series.

On behalf of the Library of Congress, Dr. Billington and Dr. Cole presented the Boorstins with two gifts: framed copies of the full-color facsimile and computer-assisted reproduction of L'Enfant's 1791 plan for the city of Washington, produced in 1991 with the assistance of the Boorstin Publishing Fund, and brass congressional bookends that are adapted from two of the Jefferson Building's bronze doors.

The afternoon symposium, "What Books Live?" was inspired by W.H. Auden's observation that "some books are undeservedly forgotten; none are undeservedly remembered." Invitees had been asked earlier to think about books that had endured in their lives, and Dr. Boorstin opened the meeting with several observations about the many "ironies in ways that time tests books."

Symposium moderator John Cole then asked guests to tell why particular books impressed them. The discussion was lively and often autobiographical. The Center for the Book plans to publish a booklet based on the comments.

The Republic of Letters: Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boorstin on Books, Reading and Libraries 1975–1987, edited by John Y. Cole, is available in the LC Sales Shop and by mail. The cost of the 115-page book is $15. If ordering by mail, add $5 for postage and handling. Orders should be sent to the Library of Congress, Sales Shop, Washington, DC 20540–5240. Credit card orders may be placed by phone at (202) 707–0204.

Alan Fern, director of the National Portrait Gallery, Walter Annenberg and Dr. Billington join in the festivities; Angeliki Laiou, director of Dumbarton Oaks, makes a point during the symposium as John Cole listens; Architect of the Capitol George White points out an architectural feature of the Members Room in the Jefferson Building, site of the symposium.

Alternatives *(Cont. from p. 473)*

enough to acquire and catalog, since the subjects of most of these, although within the scope of the Library's collections, were already well represented. The seven titles were ordered.

Because these seven titles represented only 3 percent of the 166 titles identified by Mr. Berman, the Collections Policy Office decided this was an ineffective way to identify titles not at LC.

The Collections Policy Office concluded that the present methods of identification and acquisitions bring many alternative publications into the collections. The dissemination by the Copyright Acquisitions Division and by publishers' associations of information on Copyright deposit obligations and the benefits of registration ensure that LC will continue to acquire most works of alternative publishers.

To continue to obtain such publications, the Library is taking several steps:

First, Sanford Berman and some of his colleagues with expertise on alterative press titles have agreed to continue to send catalogs and flyers of lesser known publishers to the Library.

Second, the Collections Policy Office meets with selected recommending officers and acquisitions staff of the Library to discuss alternative press publishing.

—*William Schenck*

William Schenck is collections program officer in the Collections Policy Office.

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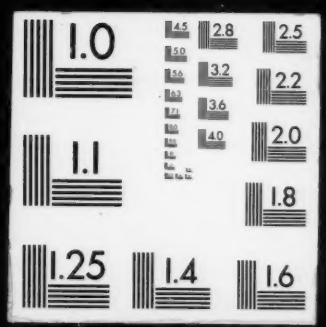
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